



A race to remember

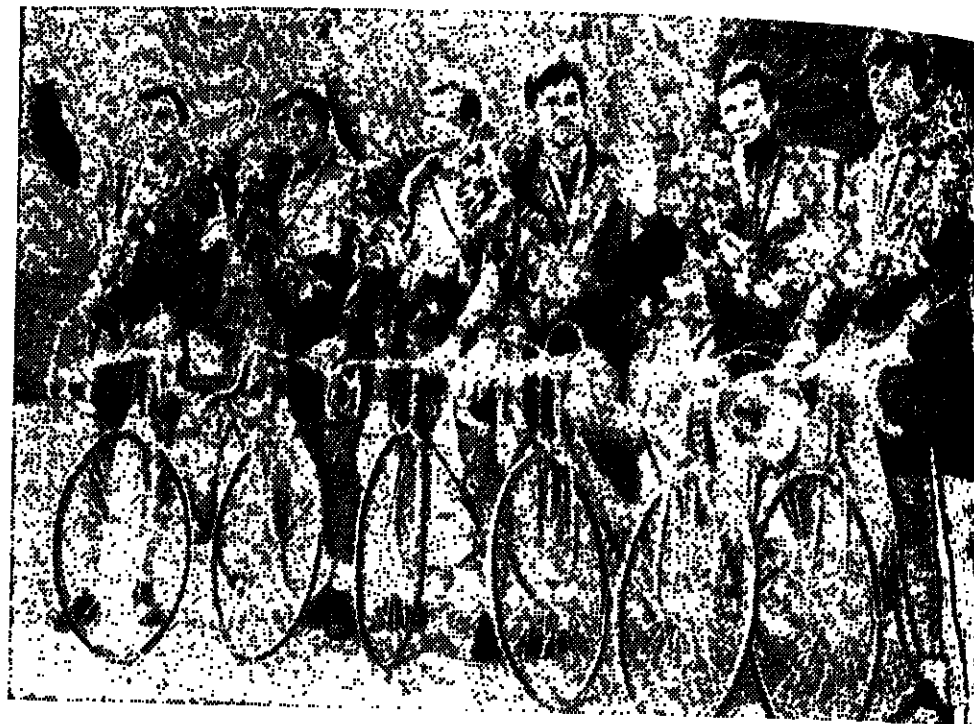
The 38th Peace Race dedicated to the 40th anniversary of Victory over Hitlerite fascism is now history. It was one of the most remarkable pages in the history of this most prestigious many-day amateur cycling event. It was marked by intense competition and an atmosphere of friendship, the debut in the Soviet capital of Moscow, live corridors of hundreds of thousands of people along the route Prague-Moscow-Warsaw - Berlin, who went out to meet the Race and expressed their allegiance to the ideals of peace and friendship among peoples in different countries.

The USSR won the team event in a most keen contention. It

featured Olympic champion Muscovite Yuri Kashirin, world champion Alexander Zinovyev from Kharkov, last year's Race team winner Pyotr Ugrumov from Riga, many-time winner of Peace Race stages Riho Suun from Tartu, budding Vasily Zhdanov from Kharkov and Viktor Klimov from Simferopol. They were better than the other teams in coping with all the troubles in team competition, the many flat tyres, cycle troubles and falls along the 1,712-kilometre track.

The GDR came second while Czechoslovakia placed third.

The Soviet racers were very eager to repeat their last year's success when they won both the



The USSR team-winners of the Peace Race. Left to right: Kashirin, Zhdanov, Suun, Zinovyev, Ugrumov, and Klimov.

team and individual titles. The latter went to Olympic champion Sergei Sukhoruchenkov from Leningrad. This time they faced stiff competition from extremely strong Polish riders led by young coach and four-time Race

winner Ryszard Szurkowski. Having taken the lead from the start of the individual time trial in Prague, his charge Lech Piascki kept it to Berlin, and his teammate Andrzej Mierzejewski ran up to him ahead of

young Uwe Ampler of the GDR. The Race brought together an unprecedented number of world cycling stars and the new individual winners' names indicate that cycling is constantly changing.

CONVINCING REVENGE

The USSR basketball team has won an international tournament at Leon (Spain) after beating European vice-champions Spain 123-107 in the decisive game. According to the "El Pais" newspaper, the Soviet team dominated the game, attacking and putting up bold defence. Shots from various distances by Sa-

bonis, Valters, Kurikshvili and Tarakanov contributed a lot to the Soviet success. Nearly throughout the nationally televised game, the USSR led with nearly a 20 point advantage. Earlier the Spaniards had won the decisive game in a similar encounter at Toledo, but now the USSR took their revenge.



Moscow Fill drubbed Samarkand Spartak 7-0 in a recent national top division encounter.

Photo by Sergei Proshukov

Real Madrid wins UEFA Cup

The Real Madrid team have won the UEFA Cup, for the first time in its history. Although in the final match they lost 0-1 to the team of Videoton from Hungary, their convincing win 3-0 in the first match allowed them to have this year's Cup. Previously Real won the European Champion's Cup on six occasions.

Earlier, the Spaniards had good chances to win the match. As it often happens in football, if you fail to win your rival will. This is exactly what happened to Real in Madrid. In the second half of the match, the Hungarians swiftly counterattacked, and Nejer scored the goal.

Of course we wanted to win, says the Real's coach Melouney. All the players tried their best, but luck turned away that day.

Ten years after

In Volgograd the Russian Federation has won the national chess team championship, their fifth such success after a ten-year interval.

The winning team had such

popular Grandmasters as Yevgeny Sveshnikov from Chelyabinsk, Lev Psakhis from Krasnoyarsk, Sergei Dolmatov from the Moscow Region, and Vitaly Teshekovsky from Krasnodar.

Second-placed Georgia was level with Muscovites on points but had more wins. Grandmasters Nana Alexandria and Nana Joseliani, who polled 12 points from 14 games, contributed weightily to the Georgian success.

The former champions Moscow came third.

IOC soon to meet in session

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, and IOC Director Monique Berlioux have received at the IOC headquarters a delegation of the Olympic Committee led by its President, Manfred Ewald.

Their discussions centred on the latest preparations towards the IOC session scheduled for June 3-6 in Berlin. Representatives of 11 cities wanting to stage the 1992 summer and winter games will also come to Berlin to organize exhibitions in the famous Berlin TV tower.

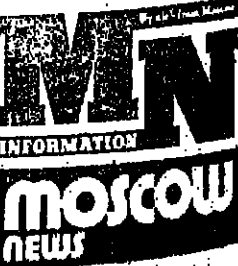
International sambo federation formed

A constituent congress in the Spanish town of Bilbao at the International Amateur Sambo Federation. Noted sports figure, Ferdinand Compe, who has for many years headed the Sambo Committee in the International Amateur Wrestling Federation (Greco-Roman and free style) was elected its president. Soviet writer, Alexander Kozlov - its vice-president.

Sambo European championships have been held since 1971 and world championships and world cups and continental tournaments since 1973.

The congress considered and approved the competition schedule for the next few years. The world championship will be held this September and the world cup in October. Both tournaments will be held in Spain. Incidentally, construction is nearly over of a Sambo Palace in Bilbao, where this sport is especially popular.

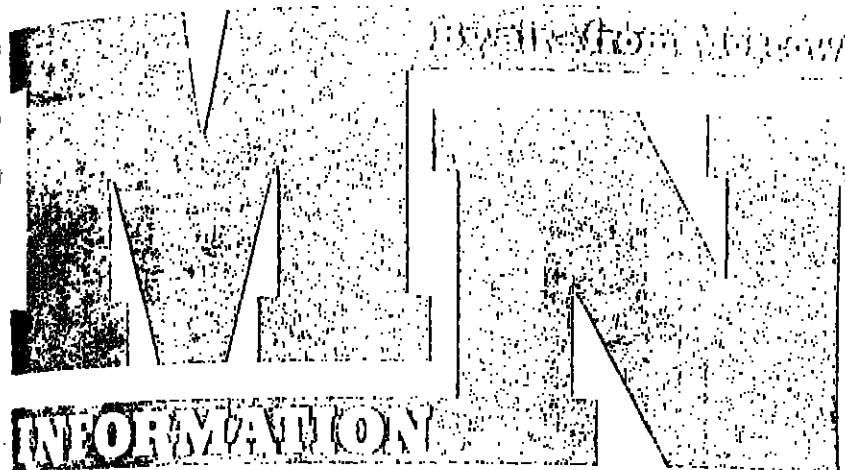
The sambo originator, Dr. USSR, will host the European championship in Leningrad in November 15-21.



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'Czechoslovakia-85'

A national Czechoslovak exhibition has opened at the USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements in Moscow to mark the 40th anniversary of the victory in the national liberation struggle of the Czechoslovak people and the country's liberation from Nazi invaders by the Soviet Army.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Gustav Husák, General Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party's Central Committee and President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Soviet-Czechoslovak cooperation is at a highly advanced stage, said the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Nikolai Tikhonov, in an address at the inauguration ceremony. Brief examples of this are provided by the construction of the "Soviet" main gas pipeline, electric power projects in Jastrabá-Babunice and Dukovany and the construction of the Prague cable. Trade between our



Gustav Husák and Nikolai Tikhonov at the exhibition.
Photo by Boris Kaulman

thousand million roubles in the current five-year period. Great opportunities unfold themselves in the organization of joint de-

velopment and design projects, in the introduction of high technologies and the production of the most advanced electronic

Svyatoslav Roerich receives award

New Delhi. At a ceremony at the USSR Embassy in India, artist Svyatoslav Roerich was awarded the Order of Friendship Among Nations for his "great contribution to strengthening friendship and cooperation between the Soviet

Union and India". In his address Roerich said that he was happy to receive such a high distinction. I see it, he continued, as an award for the entire Roerich family.

FACTS and EVENTS

Commissions of inquiry into the anti-popular activity of the former regime, overthrown on April 6, this year have started work in Sudan. The main defendant is Nimeiri, former President of the country, who is now in Egypt.

Mexico has declared that it would continue oil supplies to Nicaragua. In the statement it is stressed that Mexico, taking into consideration the serious economic difficulties facing Nicaragua, intends to go on supplying that country with oil on favourable terms.

About 700 American scientists, among them 35 Nobel Prize winners, have announced a new campaign against the plans of waging "star wars", nurtured by the Reagan administration. The group is planning to publish a number of paid supplements to "New York Times" and other leading American newspapers.

FREE ANTONOV

In connection with the Rome trial of a case of "conspiracy to murder Pope John Paul II" the Soviet National Committee in the American Defence has issued the following statement:

Language at the trial confirms that the approach of Italian justice to Bulgarian citizen Sergei Antonov and his compatriots is biased and violates a number of Italian and international laws. The charges against them are actually groundless from the legal point of view. From Antonov's anties during the first days of the trial the international community has realized what stuff is made of how unbridled his psychopathic fantasy is and how

uncontrollable he is in his intentions. At the same time, his "admissions" serve as the foundation for the charges against Antonov and his compatriots, and it is these inventions that the Western media have taken up to as to identify their campaign against socialist countries.

The statement demands the Soviet public's demand for Antonov's immediate release.

POLITBUREAU WEEKLY MEETING

The Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee has examined the idea of further developing and raising the efficiency of agricultural and other branches of the agroindustrial complex in the Non-Black Earth Zone of the Russian Federation between 1988 and 1990.

The meeting approved the decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on measures aimed at improving the country's broadcasting facilities in 1988-1993. The decision provides for a comprehensive programme for building and modernizing broadcasting projects and designing and introducing new equipment and instruments.

The Politbureau also deliberated on approved proposals submitted by the USSR Council of Ministers on further development of the Moscow underground railway system.

Also examined were the results of Mikhail Gorbachev's discussions with the Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany and Chairman of the Socialist International, Willy Brandt. The discussions held in the Kremlin showed that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Social Democratic Party of Germany share common views on such basic contemporary international issues as the prevention of outer space militarization, the necessity of achieving significant progress at the Geneva

talks between the Soviet Union and the United States, space and nuclear weapons being regarded as mutually interconnected. The two sides also share identical or very similar views on reliable security in Europe, a return to détente and development of normal good-neighbourly relations among European countries, including the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic of Germany. Two parties believe that consolidating peace requires the avoidance of outside interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and that peoples' freedom and the right to independent development should be protected. The Politbureau noted that in the existing tense international situation, which requires greater and more active interaction among all the forces sincerely interested in preserving and consolidating peace, it is highly important to carry on and extend contacts of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union with the Socialist International and Socialist Democratic and Socialist parties, such as the Social Democratic Party of Germany, so as to achieve greater mutual understanding and cooperation among nations.

The Politbureau heard a report on talks between the Soviet leadership and the Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who recently visited the USSR. Note was taken of the successful development of bilateral Soviet-Italian relations in the commercial, economic, scientific, technical and cultural spheres, political consultations; exchange of views on topical issues in European and world politics. The

(Continued on page 3)

Ruslan takes off

The AN-124 jumbo cargo plane designed by the O. K. Antonov Design Bureau in Kiev is being demonstrated at the Le Bourget salon in Paris.

The new plane named Ruslan can carry 150 tonnes of cargo, or twice as much as its predecessor - An-12, the world's first wide-bodied plane which was a sensation at Le Bourget twenty years ago.

Ruslan can carry various types of cargo which previously could be conveyed only along waterway or over land, for instance, twenty-tonne marine cargo containers, large building structures, drilling equipment, and even river boats. Its take-

off weight is 405 tonnes, and its cross-country many-strut chassis enable it to take off and land on unpaved country airstrips.

It can transport nearly eighty per cent of all the large-size cargoes meant for the north and other rapidly developing areas of the Soviet Union. Ruslan is also designed for intercontinental flights. Its range, with full load of cargo, is 4,500 kilometres, while at the maximum it covers a distance of 16,000 kilometres.



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Soviet-American talks resume

Geneva. The second round of the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space arms has begun here. Soviet and US delegations are headed by V. Karpov and Max Kampelman respectively.

Prior to the first plenary session V. Karpov stressed that the Soviet delegation had been authorized to conduct talks so as to find solutions to help lessen the threat of nuclear war and thus facilitate international détente and strengthen peace and good relations among all nations. He stressed that in line with an accord reached by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and US Secretary of State George Shultz on January 8 this year, the goal of preventing an arms race in space is defined as a joint objective of the talks. The main thing here, he said, is to settle this issue and effectively use this principle to reach decisions that would securely bar the way to offensive outer space weapons, end the arms race on Earth and ultimately eliminate all nuclear arms.

Willy Brandt: We reject outer space militarization

Our talks in Moscow were characterized by realism and awareness of our responsibility for the lives of people, said Willy Brandt, Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany and Chairman of the Socialist International. Addressing a press conference in Moscow, he said that such an extensive exchange of views can be interesting and important in interstate relations.

Willy Brandt said his party rejects militarization of outer space. Pointing out that the Soviet Union does not intend to attack the West, he called for a shift from confrontation to mutual reduction in armaments and partnership for the sake of peace.

Unfortunately it has to be admitted, he said, that some political leaders and groupings in the Federal Republic make statements which are out of tune with the letter and spirit of the treaties concluded in the seventies. There is no doubt that the overwhelming majority of people in the Federal Republic do not want to have anything to do with the evil past. They want good-neighbourly relations and mutual cooperation in the interests of both countries.



Uncle Sam: "I see him through my rose glasses". Drawing by Vladimir Sviridov

WPC calls for progress at Geneva talks

Helsinki. Resolute action in the interests of progress at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons has been urged on the world public by Chairman of the World Peace Council Romesh Chandra.

The peace forces throughout the world demand that a moratorium should be imposed on all the strike space weapons and on nuclear weapons — strategic arms and medium-range missiles in Europe — for the duration of the negotiations at Geneva, said the WPC Chairman. The Soviet Union, he added, has officially called for the introduction of such a moratorium. The Soviet

Union has unilaterally adopted a number of important measures in the interests of securing disarmament. However, the United States responded by redoubling its efforts to implement the "star wars" programme and by building up all other first-strike weapons.

The World Peace Council believes that the International public can make the United States stop sabotaging the Geneva talks and calls on all the organizations which stand for prevention of nuclear war to step up their actions in order to secure the success of the Soviet-American talks at Geneva, stressed Romesh Chandra.

Pugwash scientists call for unity

Geneva. The continuing arms race and the danger of its spilling into outer space jeopardize the entire system of treaties which ensure peace and security today. This is said in a statement issued by the Executive Council of the Pugwash Movement adopted as a result of working meeting between scientists and specialists in military matters from eighteen countries. The delegates pointed out that in this situation it is essential that the 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems should be preserved and consolidated with an addition to it of a moratorium on the tests of the systems of anti-satellite weapons with a subsequent banning of all such weapons. It

is also necessary to obtain support for the SALT-2 Treaty for a consequent considerable reduction in nuclear armaments. It is necessary to ban on weapons in space, also essential to secure talks on complete ban of nuclear weapons. The completion of the Pugwash Movement of the need for cooperation between all forces in order to prevent nuclear disaster, the delegates pointed out, which would increase the outer space.

Nuclear sword plus anti-missile shield

New York. "The New York Times" has learnt that the US Department of Defense is drafting plans for nuclear war and incorporating offensive nuclear forces and the anti-missile defence system with space-based

'IMPRESSIVE' PROGRESS

London. According to "The Times", hundreds of American companies and research institutes have been enlisted for the development of a full-scale anti-missile defence system with some space-based elements. John Gardner, director of the department responsible for carrying out the so-called "strategic defence initiative", said in an interview in the above-mentioned newspaper that an "impressive" progress has been achieved in the elaboration of major components of anti-missile defence space system. According to him, "important results" have been obtained in the development of ground- and space-based laser weapons. In the elaboration of installations for launching missiles into outer space.

The newspaper goes on to say that the US strategy will bring together US strategic aviation and Navy, as well as the ground command and the North American Air Command.

Politbureau weekly meeting

(Continued from page 1)

talks confirmed that the differences in their stand on number of major issues. The Soviet Union and Italy have both the presence of contacts on such issues as cessation of the arms race, lowering the level of military confrontation, permanent cooperation between the two countries on the basis of the principle of peaceful coexistence, due respect for the sovereignty and independence of all states. The Politbureau stressed the importance of further strengthening the mutually advantageous operation and political relations with Italy.

Planned operation

Philadelphia. The police attack on the "Black Liberation Movement", which resulted in the death of 11 people, was at physically liquidating its members. A scrutiny of police with details of the police and helped staffers at the "Black Liberation Movement" reveal that the police kept reserve of the roof of the building, which their helicopter bombed.

It also transpired that the police prevented the Black Liberation Movement from holding a funeral for the slain. According to the statement, W. Richmond, a member of the Black Liberation Movement, said that the police forbade the Black Liberation Movement to put down the slain on the grounds that the slain were not Black. The police shot at the Black Liberation Movement and killed one of its members.

The Soviet pavilion at Expo-85, an exhibition currently going on in Tokyo, Japan, has aroused great interest. Both foreigners and Japanese flock to the scientific, technological and space achievement sections.



CMEA CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

New York. Socialist countries have contributed significantly to the development of scientific and technological cooperation among nations of the world, is the conclusion of a report by Secretary-General Pérez de Cuellar submitted to the Inter-Regional Committee on Science and Technology for Development.

At present the European CMEA countries have accumulated scientific and technological cooperation with about 100 developing nations.

OAS on measures to take LA out of debt

The countries in Latin America are on their way to becoming paper nations because of the growth in the external debt which has already topped 1,000,000,000 dollars, and the needs of their development. Their attempts to reduce their dependence on foreign loans are confined to measures, reduction in the public sector and to the branches of the economy which produce solely for export. This makes Latin America highly vulnerable to international corporations, the report issued by the Organization of American States.

As a result of their top-sided development, many of their industries and branches of agriculture are in a state of stagnation, the report stresses. This has led to growing unemployment, and dropping living standards among masses of the population. The Organization sees the only way out of this situation in regional cooperation which is expected to enable the economies of the Latin American countries to become mutually complementary. Otherwise, the social differences may become sharply aggravated to the extent when political stability of the region as a whole will be jeopardized, the report points out.

IN MEMORY OF INDIRA GANDHI

New Delhi. A memorial has been held in the former residence of Indira Gandhi, outstanding leader of Indian people, political and public figure of India. With the open heart the memorial Indians pay great respect to the memory of Indira Gandhi, whose

name is associated with the major achievements of India in economic, scientific and social fields, with the growth and strengthening of international prestige of independent India which consistently pursues a peace-loving foreign policy.

Conference on college education in China

Beijing. The Chinese capital has been the venue for a conference on education, called by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council of China which will discuss a ruling to reform the system of higher education in general. The ruling taken by the CPC Central Committee envisages gradual introduction of nine-year compulsory schooling, changes in the system of admission to colleges and universities, job allocation for the graduates, and revision of curricula and teaching methods.

Deng Xiaoping who addressed the conference said that radical improvements in education and in the scientific and technological development in China will help by the middle of the 21st century, when a century since the foundation of the People's Republic of China is celebrated, the Chinese economy approach the level of the developed countries of the world.

Science and technology

EAT MORE FISH

The American scientific publication "New England Journal of Medicine" carried reports by cardiologists and dietitians in which it is proved that consumption of fish, especially sea fish, has rather favourable effect on the cardiovascular system.

Investigations conducted by scientists for many years have shown that the regular use of even two fish dishes per week reduces the likelihood of infarction by 50 per cent. The mechanism of the effect of fish products on vessels and the heart has not yet been disclosed fully, however, it is stressed that their medicinal influence on the blood and the walls of blood vessels, as well as on the activity of brain and eyesight has been revealed quite definitely.

NO REFERENCE BOOK NEEDED

A unique instrument Microm-1, developed at the Plovdiv laboratory of applied physics in Bulgaria, measures the thickness of galvanic coats and bimetal sheets, the layer of varnishes, dyes, polymer coatings on wood, concrete and metals. The thickness gauge is fitted with a microprocessor with hundreds of data stored in its memory.

HOW MANY ARE WE?

Rome. At present, the world's population is 4,842 million. By the year 2025 it will reach nearly 8,177 million, with only 1,396 million in the developing countries.

These figures were quoted at a press conference in Rome on the eve of an international demographic conference due to open on June 5 in Florence.

OF INTEREST

No exchange rate for 'Noble'

You will not find this currency in the bulletins of exchange rates, nor will you be able to buy anything with it in any shop. This coin of the Isle of Man is called "Noble", as the material for its manufacture is the most valuable of the noble metals. Noble has no circulation, it is of interest to coin collectors, and rich people who like to invest their money in jewels and other precious items.

FROM the SOVIET PRESS

ZONE OF 'UNDECLARED WAR'

More than six years have elapsed since the Kampuchean people overthrew the regime of henchman Pol Pot, Vseslav Ovchinnikov writes in PRAVDA. But the henchman of the bloody tyrant, thrown out of the country, and their overseas patrons have turned the Kampuchean-Thai border into a zone of "undeclared war" similar to what the frontier between Nicaragua and Honduras has become of late. The remnants of the surviving gangs have entrenched themselves on Thai territory not far from the border, from where they launch murderous raids and subversive attacks against the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

According to the author, the initiators of the idea of turning the Thai-Kampuchean border into a confrontation line pursue two aims: firstly, to stop through force the irreversible process of national revival in Kampuchea and again to bring back to power the regime overthrown by the people, even if under a new cover. Secondly, by continuously provoking frontier clashes, to arouse mistrust and dislike for Kampuchea, Laos and Vietnam among their neighbours — Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei — which are members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

TOUCHSTONE

West Germany is divided in these days of celebration of the 40th anniversary of the rout of fascism into two camps, writes LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. Bonn correspondents O. Prudkov and A. Frank. The social groups rallying round the Communists, Social Democrats and the "Greens" consider the results of World War II as final and the post-war system in Europe not subject to revision. They are opposed by forces for whom the "German question remains open" and who hope for a revision of borders in Europe and have not reconciled themselves to the results of World War II. Those who call the rout of fascism a disaster for Europe. This trend is adhered to by the CDU/CSU.

Significantly attitude to the results of World War II is a touchstone for every party in West Germany and every person. This is an evaluation of the Nazi past, the interpretation of historical experience, and ideas of the future of Europe and the world.

Doubt, think it is of no use here — indeed, how can Bonn reconcile the growth of the military might of the Bundeswehr, deployment of American missiles, and plans for participation in the American programme for militarizing outer space with the renunciation of the militaristic legacy?

WHO HOLDS THE KEY TO SETTLEMENT?

Commenting in IZVESTIA on the Iran-Iraq war, A. Ostafsky, notes that whatever the peculiarities of the conflict, war is still war — it regularly takes a heavy toll of human lives and material resources, placing both peoples under psychological strain whose effect will persist for a long time after the war is over. Of course, the key to a settlement of the conflict is in the hands of the belligerents themselves.

Also, the general world situation has an important significance for restoring peace there. Growing world tensions and the military threat at the hands of the USA and its allies have produced far from favourable situation for a settlement of regional conflicts. At one time imperialist forces and reaction in the Middle East and the Zionists did a lot to goad Iran and Iraq into war, and now they want to drag it out, apoking the wheels of a peaceful settlement of the problem, the author notes in conclusion.

PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT SEEKS EEC MEMBERSHIP

The present Portuguese Government, writes G. Petrov, TASS correspondent in Lisbon, has proclaimed its joining the "club of West European monopolies" as the main aim of its foreign policy believing that integration is a matter of honour, a panacea for all of the country's ills. Official Lisbon hopes that this measure will enable the country's backward economy to reach quickly in its development the average level of other EEC countries, that the financial aid and growing influx of investment from this closed grouping will be able to give Portugal a fresh impetus towards overcoming the serious socio-economic difficulties. Psychologically, Portugal will cease to be regarded as "the outskirts of Europe" and become an equal member of the family of other bourgeois "democracies".

Agreeing with all this reasoning in words, the EEC leaders are not overhasty to swing the EEC door open to their poor relation. The European integration of Portugal causes too many problems for them, especially for Spain which has developed agriculture and one of the world's largest fishing fleets.

Ancient church destroyed

Bonn. The supreme ecclesiastical authorities of Munich lodged a protest with the Air Force of the Federal Republic of Germany in connection with the demolition of an ancient church in the locality of Weipertshausen. The point is that three combat interceptors, during training flights, flew at zero altitude over this building so that the walls of the church collapsed, unable to stand the stroke of the sound waves at the time the planes crossed the sound barrier. Only by a lucky chance the structures working there did not suffer.

VIEWPOINT

WORLD OCEAN AND U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

The Soviet desire to prevent an escalation of the naval arms race meets the interests of many non-aligned nations, including those in the Indian Ocean. While ten years ago separate American warships entered its waters only from time to time, this is not the case today. According to the AP news agency, a US task force consisting of the aircraft carrier "Constellation" and five support ships will pay a five-day visit to the Kenyan port of Mombasa. Besides, a special aircraft-carrier group plus two dozens of support ships and lots of planes carrying nuclear weapons have been stationed for several months now in the Arabian Sea.

The bolting of US naval force is directly in line with the Reagan administration's "power politics". This was stressed back in 1982 by the "Foreign Policy" magazine which noted that the neo-Conservatives had managed

not only to bury the talks with the Russians on limiting naval activity, but also to increase their military presence in the Indian Ocean to an unprecedented level. By 1990, as a result of the implementation of the Pentagon programme, the barrels of American ships, which will by then number 600, will be levelled against the territories of dozens of states. Special aircraft-carrier groups are to become the watchdogs of America's "vital interests". They will threaten not only the coastal states. With the help of cruise missiles and planes they would be able to strike hundreds of kilometres inside the territory of any country, and all this should show the leaders of developing nations that the USA has long arms.

The danger of the increase in American naval power is felt more and more in "third world"

capitals. In recent years, right in front of their eyes, Washington has been acting as a regular international policeman on the sea-lanes. It tried to lay down its terms in the Persian Gulf, stopping for inspection merchant ships of other nations and dictating terms of flights for foreign civilian planes. US warships organized a blockade of the coast of El Salvador and Nicaragua off the shores of Grenada they were the main invasion force. Not long ago US planes operating from aircraft carriers in the eastern Mediterranean took an active part in bombing raids on Beirut suburbs.

It is quite understandable why a year ago the USSR, in its letter to the UN Secretary-General, urged a restriction of naval activity and naval armaments. Moscow warned that any further growth in sea fleets and intensification of their ac-

tivity could upset stability on a global and regional scale.

To prevent this the Soviet Union has, since 1982, been proposing that prior to an international conference on the Indian Ocean, all nations should refrain from steps capable of complicating the entire situation there; that countries should not dispatch there large naval units, hold war games, or expand and modernize the military bases of those non-coastal states located in this region.

Yet all along Washington has preferred to act differently and clearly intends to turn the Indian Ocean into an American lake and to place the independence of other states under the eyes of its naval guns. This purpose is served by the modernization of US military bases in Kenya, Somalia, Oman and Diego Garcia. They are the strongholds of the naval forces charged with the task of spearheading American imperial interests.

It is easy to see in this respect that a demilitarization of the Indian Ocean has an exceptional significance for strengthening the security of many states of this basin. The USSR is prepared to ensure it by curtailing primarily any foreign military activity there, while the USA regards Moscow's proposals as encroachments on its "vital interests". For Washington these are far more important than peace and security for the dozens of non-aligned nations in the region.

Edvard RYABTSEV



